AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled):

Claim 23 (New): A packet communication method for packet communication between a first packet communication terminal and a second packet communication terminal, comprising:

maintaining, at the first packet communication terminal, a database of potential network addresses corresponding to said first packet communication terminal;

sending database add and delete messages from the first packet communication terminal to the second packet communication terminal to enable the second packet communication terminal to maintain, at the second packet communication terminal, a local database of potential network addresses corresponding to said first packet communication terminal;

evaluating, within the first packet communication terminal, a communication link relative to a predetermined criterion and generating an evaluation result; and

switching, at the first packet communication terminal, between a unicast and a multicast mode of operation based upon the evaluation result, said step of switching including sending a switch instruction message to said second packet communication terminal from the first packet communication terminal instructing the second packet communication terminal to also switch between said unicast and multicast mode of operations,

the unicast mode of operation in each of the first and second packet communication terminals including transmitting and receiving via a network address corresponding to a communication link which meets said evaluation criterion, and

the multicast mode of operation in each of the first and second packet communication terminals including transmitting and receiving via all network addresses in the corresponding databases of potential network addresses located in the first and second packet communication terminals.

Claim 24 (New): The packet communication method according to Claim 23, the step of evaluating, within the first packet communication terminal, a communication link relative to a predetermined criterion comprising:

measuring intensities of radio waves of networks detected by the first packet communication terminal.

Claim 25 (New): A first packet communication device configured to perform packet communication with a second packet communication terminal, comprising:

means for maintaining, at the first packet communication terminal, a database of potential network addresses corresponding to said first packet communication terminal;

means for sending database add and delete messages from the first packet communication terminal to the second packet communication terminal to enable the second packet communication terminal to maintain, at the second packet communication terminal, a local database of potential network addresses corresponding to said first packet communication terminal;

means for evaluating, within the first packet communication terminal, a communication link relative to a predetermined criterion and generating an evaluation result; and

means for switching, at the first packet communication terminal, between a unicast and a multicast mode of operation based upon the evaluation result, said means for switching

including sending a switch instruction message to said second packet communication terminal from the first packet communication terminal instructing the second packet communication terminal to also switch between said unicast and multicast mode of operations,

the unicast mode of operation in each of the first and second packet communication terminals including transmitting and receiving via a network address corresponding to a communication link which meets said evaluation criterion, and

the multicast mode of operation in each of the first and second packet communication terminals including transmitting and receiving via all network addresses in the corresponding databases of potential network addresses located in the first and second packet communication terminals.

Claim 26 (New): The first packet communication device according to Claim 25, the means for evaluating, within the first packet communication terminal, a communication link relative to a predetermined criterion comprising:

means for measuring intensities of radio waves of networks detected by the first packet communication terminal.

Claim 27 (New): A first packet communication device configured to perform packet communication with a second packet communication terminal, comprising:

a database storing potential network addresses corresponding to said first packet communication terminal;

a transmitter configured to transmit database add and delete messages from the first packet communication terminal to the second packet communication terminal to enable the second packet communication terminal to maintain, at the second packet communication

terminal, a local database of potential network addresses corresponding to said first packet communication terminal;

a processor, within the first packet communication terminal, configured to evaluate a communication link relative to a predetermined criterion and generating an evaluation result; and

control logic, at the first packet communication terminal, configured to switch the first packet communication terminal between a unicast and a multicast mode of operation based upon the evaluation result, and to send a switch instruction message to said second packet communication terminal from the first packet communication terminal instructing the second packet communication terminal to also switch between said unicast and multicast mode of operations,

the unicast mode of operation in each of the first and second packet communication terminals including transmitting and receiving via a network address corresponding to a communication link which meets said evaluation criterion, and

the multicast mode of operation in each of the first and second packet communication terminals including transmitting and receiving via all network addresses in the corresponding databases of potential network addresses located in the first and second packet communication terminals.

Claim 28 (New): The first packet communication device according to Claim 27, the processor comprising:

control logic configured to measure intensities of radio waves of networks detected by the first packet communication terminal.

Claim 29 (New) A computer readable storage device storing a computer program, the computer program including instructions configured to cause a processor-based device to execute a packet communication method for packet communication between a first packet communication terminal and a second packet communication terminal, comprising:

maintaining, at the first packet communication terminal, a database of potential network addresses corresponding to said first packet communication terminal;

sending database add and delete messages from the first packet communication terminal to the second packet communication terminal to enable the second packet communication terminal to maintain, at the second packet communication terminal, a local database of potential network addresses corresponding to said first packet communication terminal;

evaluating, within the first packet communication terminal, a communication link relative to a predetermined criterion and generating an evaluation result; and

switching, at the first packet communication terminal, between a unicast and a multicast mode of operation based upon the evaluation result, said step of switching including sending a switch instruction message to said second packet communication terminal from the first packet communication terminal instructing the second packet communication terminal to also switch between said unicast and multicast mode of operations,

the unicast mode of operation in each of the first and second packet communication terminals including transmitting and receiving via a network address corresponding to a communication link which meets said evaluation criterion, and

the multicast mode of operation in each of the first and second packet communication terminals including transmitting and receiving via all network addresses in the corresponding databases of potential network addresses located in the first and second packet communication terminals.

Claim 30 (New): A packet communication method for packet communication between a first packet communication terminal and a second packet communication terminal, comprising:

maintaining, at the second packet communication terminal, a database of potential network addresses corresponding to said first packet communication terminal;

receiving, at the second packet communication terminal, database add and delete messages from the first packet communication terminal and maintaining, at the second packet communication terminal, a local database of potential network addresses corresponding to said first packet communication terminal; and

receiving, at said second packet communication terminal, a switch instruction message from the first packet communication terminal instructing the second packet communication terminal to switch between a unicast and a multicast mode of operations in conjunction with a switching between said unicast and multicast mode of operations at the first packet communication terminal, the switch instruction message indicating that the first packet communication terminal has determined that a link detected by the first packet communication terminal does or does not meet a predetermined evaluation criteria,

the unicast mode of operation in each of the first and second packet communication terminals including transmitting and receiving via a network address corresponding to a communication link which meets said evaluation criterion, and

the multicast mode of operation in each of the first and second packet communication terminals including transmitting and receiving via all network addresses in the corresponding databases of potential network addresses located in the first and second packet communication terminals.

Claim 31 (New): A first packet communication device configured to perform packet communication with a second packet communication terminal, comprising:

means for maintaining, at the second packet communication terminal, a database of potential network addresses corresponding to said first packet communication terminal;

means for receiving, at the second packet communication terminal, database add and delete messages from the first packet communication terminal and maintaining, at the second packet communication terminal, a local database of potential network addresses corresponding to said first packet communication terminal; and

means for receiving, at said second packet communication terminal, a switch instruction message from the first packet communication terminal instructing the second packet communication terminal to switch between a unicast and a multicast mode of operations in conjunction with a switching between said unicast and multicast mode of operations at the first packet communication terminal, the switch instruction message indicating that the first packet communication terminal has determined that a link detected by the first packet communication terminal does or does not meet a predetermined evaluation criteria,

the unicast mode of operation in each of the first and second packet communication terminals including transmitting and receiving via a network address corresponding to a communication link which meets said evaluation criterion, and

the multicast mode of operation in each of the first and second packet communication terminals including transmitting and receiving via all network addresses in the corresponding databases of potential network addresses located in the first and second packet communication terminals.

Claim 32 (New): A first packet communication device configured to perform packet communication with a second packet communication terminal, comprising:

a receiver configured to receive, at the second packet communication terminal, database add and delete messages from the first packet communication terminal;

a database storing, at the second packet communication terminal, a local database of potential network addresses corresponding to said first packet communication terminal; and

control logic configured to switch, based on a switch instruction message received from the first packet communication terminal, the second packet communication terminal between a unicast and a multicast mode of operations in conjunction with a switching between said unicast and multicast mode of operations at the first packet communication terminal, the switch instruction message indicating that the first packet communication terminal has determined that a link detected by the first packet communication terminal does or does not meet a predetermined evaluation criteria,

the unicast mode of operation in each of the first and second packet communication terminals including transmitting and receiving via a network address corresponding to a communication link which meets said evaluation criterion, and

the multicast mode of operation in each of the first and second packet communication terminals including transmitting and receiving via all network addresses in the corresponding databases of potential network addresses located in the first and second packet communication terminals.

Claim 33 (New): A computer readable storage device storing a computer program, the computer program including instructions configured to cause a processor-based device to execute a packet communication method for packet communication between a first packet communication terminal and a second packet communication terminal, comprising:

maintaining, at the second packet communication terminal, a database of potential network addresses corresponding to said first packet communication terminal;

receiving, at the second packet communication terminal, database add and delete messages from the first packet communication terminal and maintaining, at the second packet communication terminal, a local database of potential network addresses corresponding to said first packet communication terminal; and

receiving, at said second packet communication terminal, a switch instruction message from the first packet communication terminal instructing the second packet communication terminal to switch between a unicast and a multicast mode of operations in conjunction with a switching between said unicast and multicast mode of operations at the first packet communication terminal, the switch instruction message indicating that the first packet communication terminal has determined that a link detected by the first packet communication terminal does or does not meet a predetermined evaluation criteria,

the unicast mode of operation in each of the first and second packet communication terminals including transmitting and receiving via a network address corresponding to a communication link which meets said evaluation criterion, and

the multicast mode of operation in each of the first and second packet communication terminals including transmitting and receiving via all network addresses in the corresponding databases of potential network addresses located in the first and second packet communication terminals.